

Mia Henry
Portfolio



4.

The Stoops



22.

Reconstruction



24.

Freshkills Research Garden



38.

The Stoops



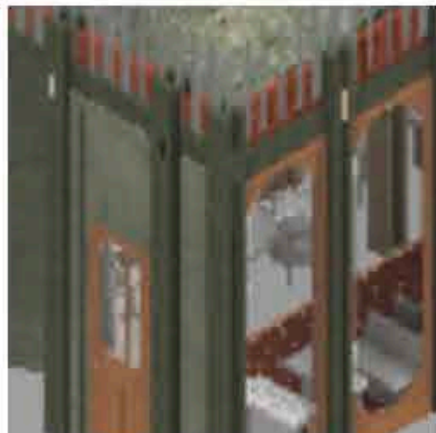
40.

Breathing Bricks



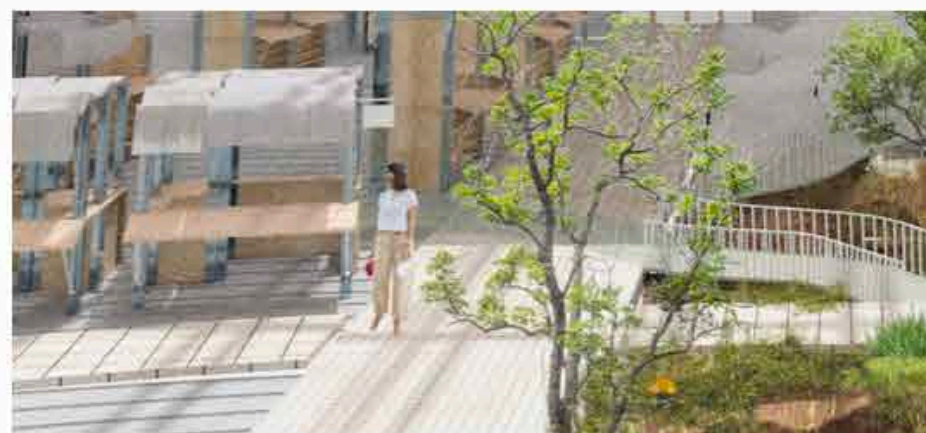
46.

Breathing Bricks



48.

Reconstruction



62.

El Decorado



66.

Alternate Route

The Stoop

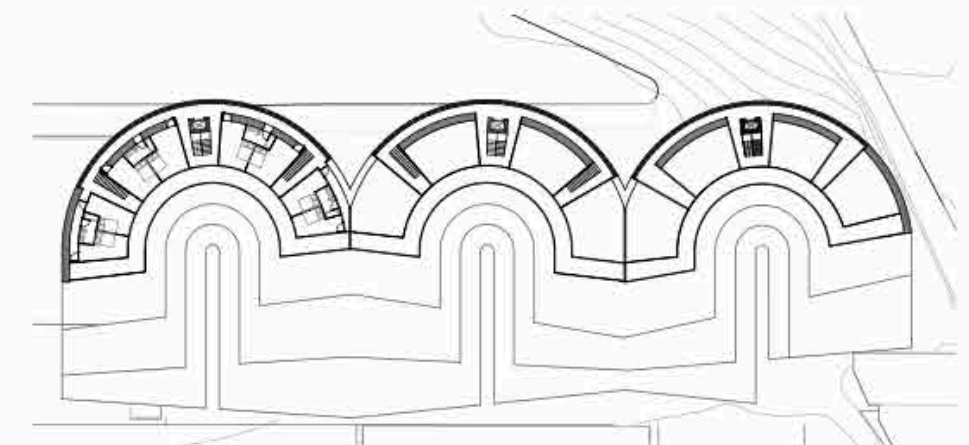
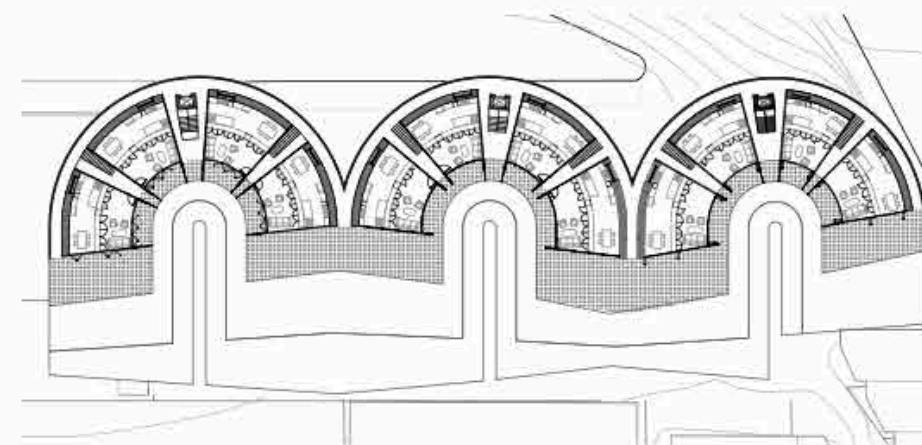
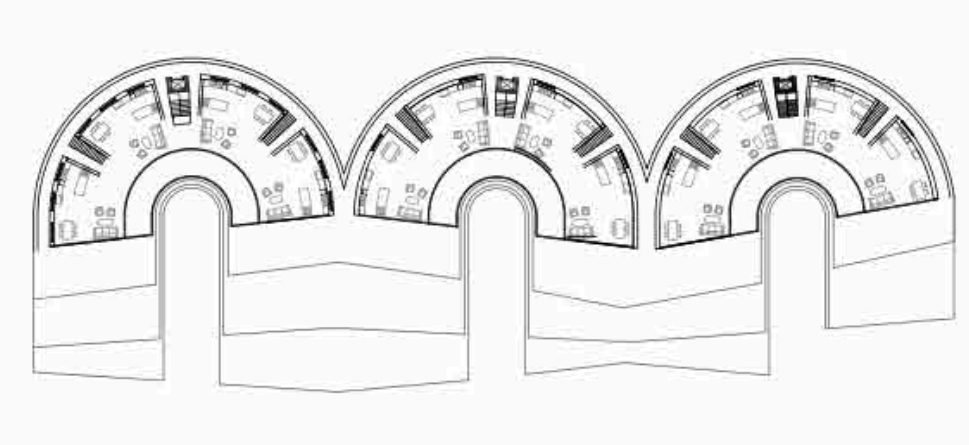
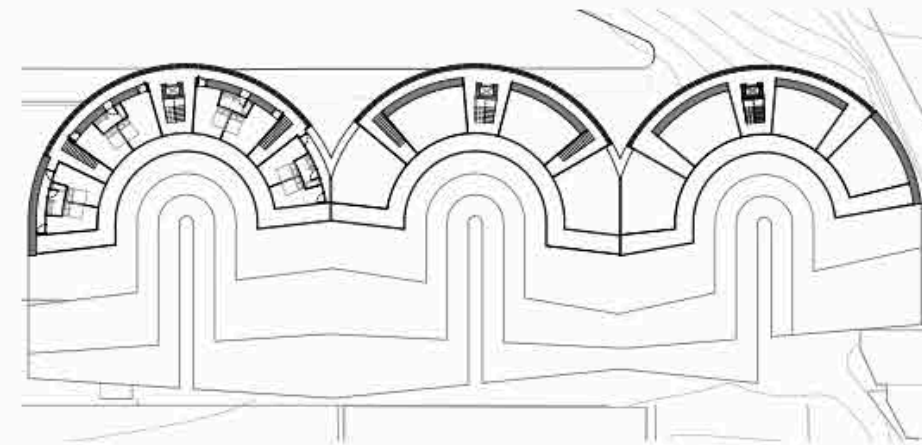
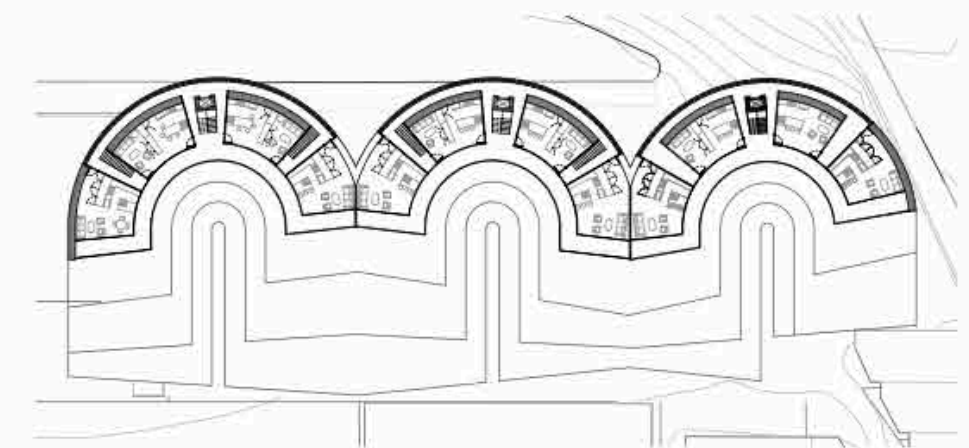
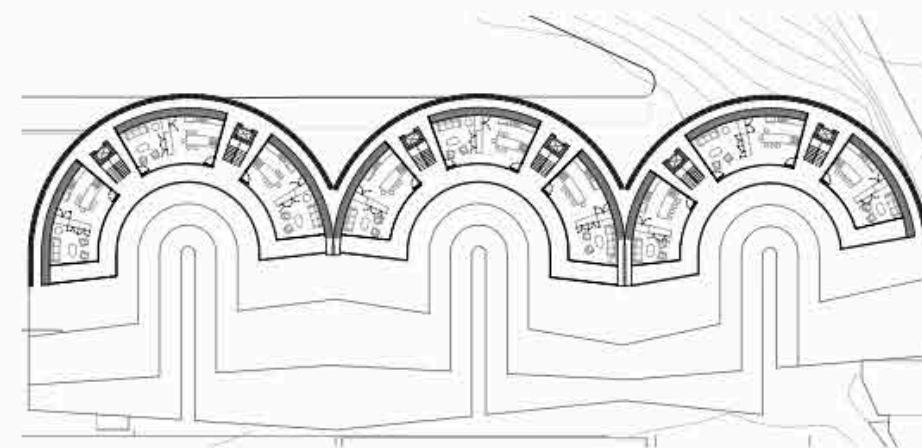
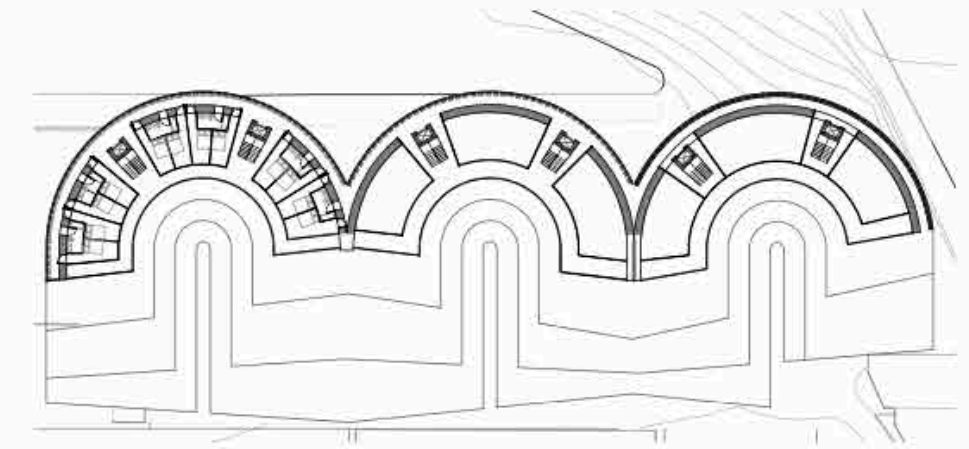
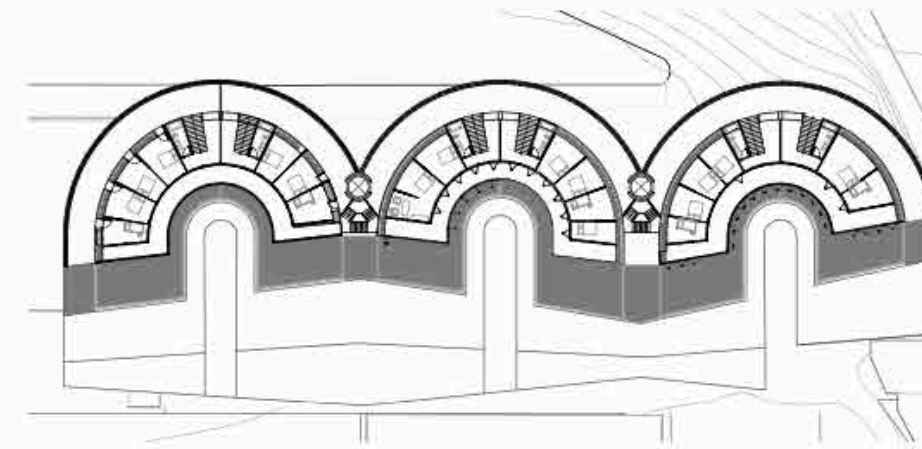
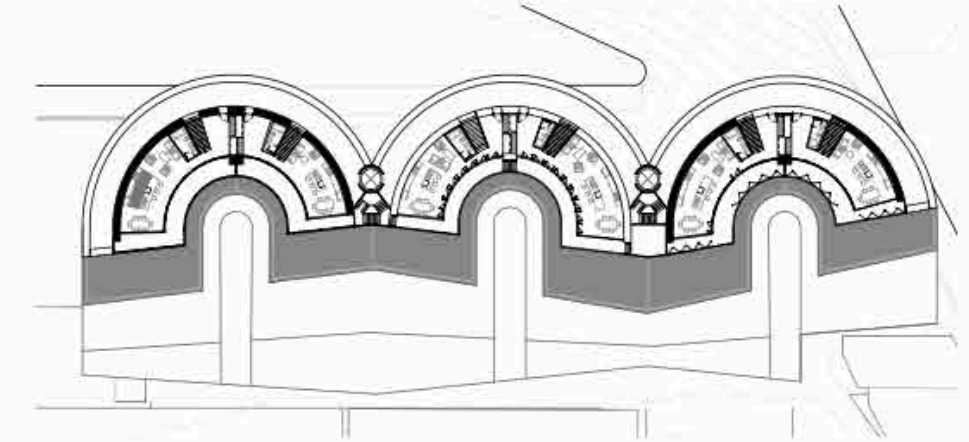
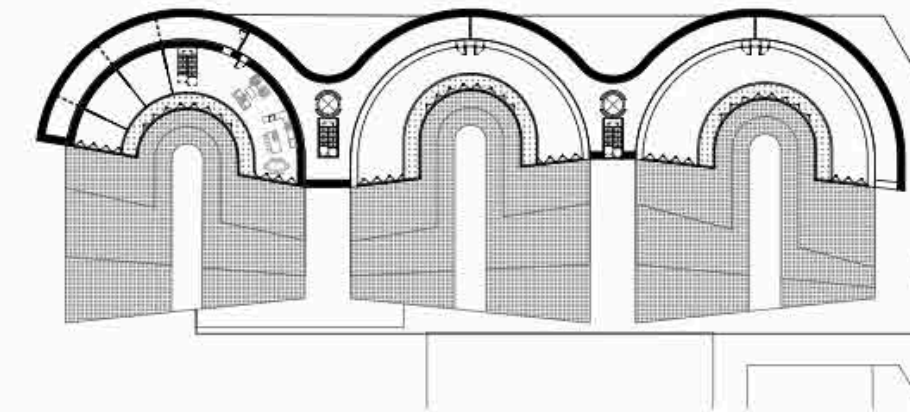
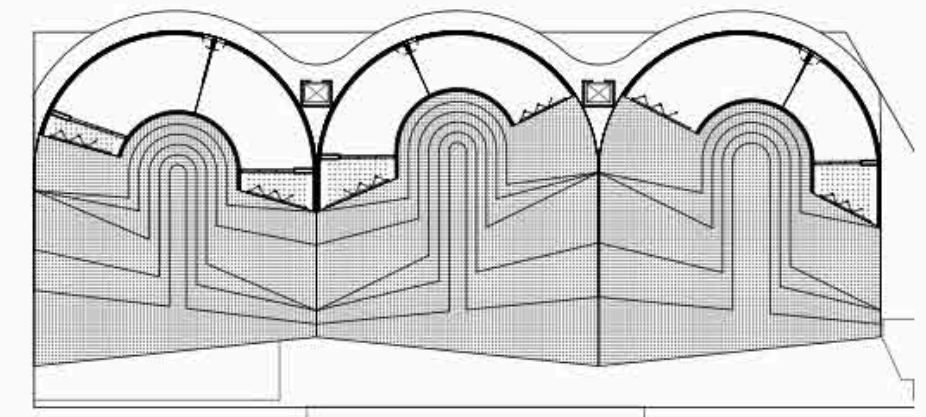
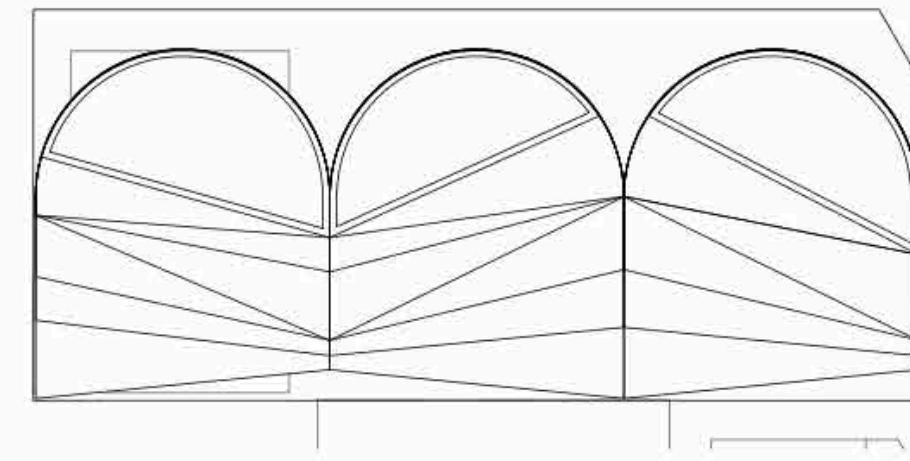
Disappearance in the urban context is rarely accidental—it is the cumulative effect of systemic, intentional design and policy decisions. In New York City, the erosion of affordable housing, equitable green infrastructure, and climate-adaptive strategies continues to displace communities and fragment urban life. This proposal, situated in Manhattanville, introduces a thermally self-regulating structure constructed from earthen and recycled brick materials. The building comprises 40 modular units designed for multigenerational occupancy, enabling spatial reconfiguration over time to accommodate evolving domestic needs. Passive environmental systems—including bioswale gardens at grade and vegetated balconies and rooftops—integrate stormwater management with microclimatic regulation. Collectively, these strategies advance a model of housing that is both socially responsive and ecologically resilient.

Core 3

2023

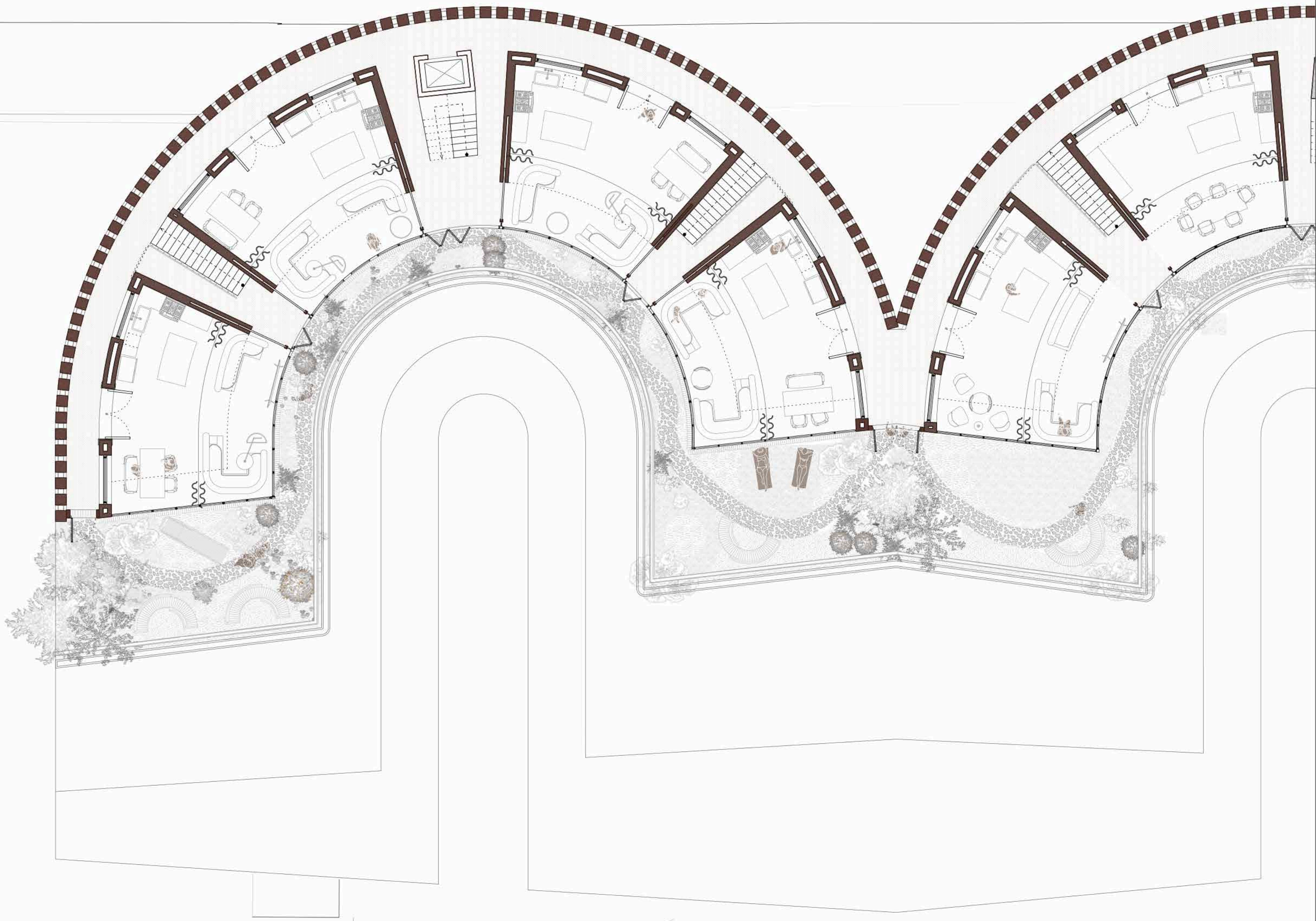
Studio Critic: Erica Goetz





Understanding the form through plan

This series of architectural plan iterations explores the evolution of form through a deep engagement with spatial rhythm, movement, and landscape. At its core, the project investigates how repeated vaulted geometries can be transformed and refined to shape human experience.





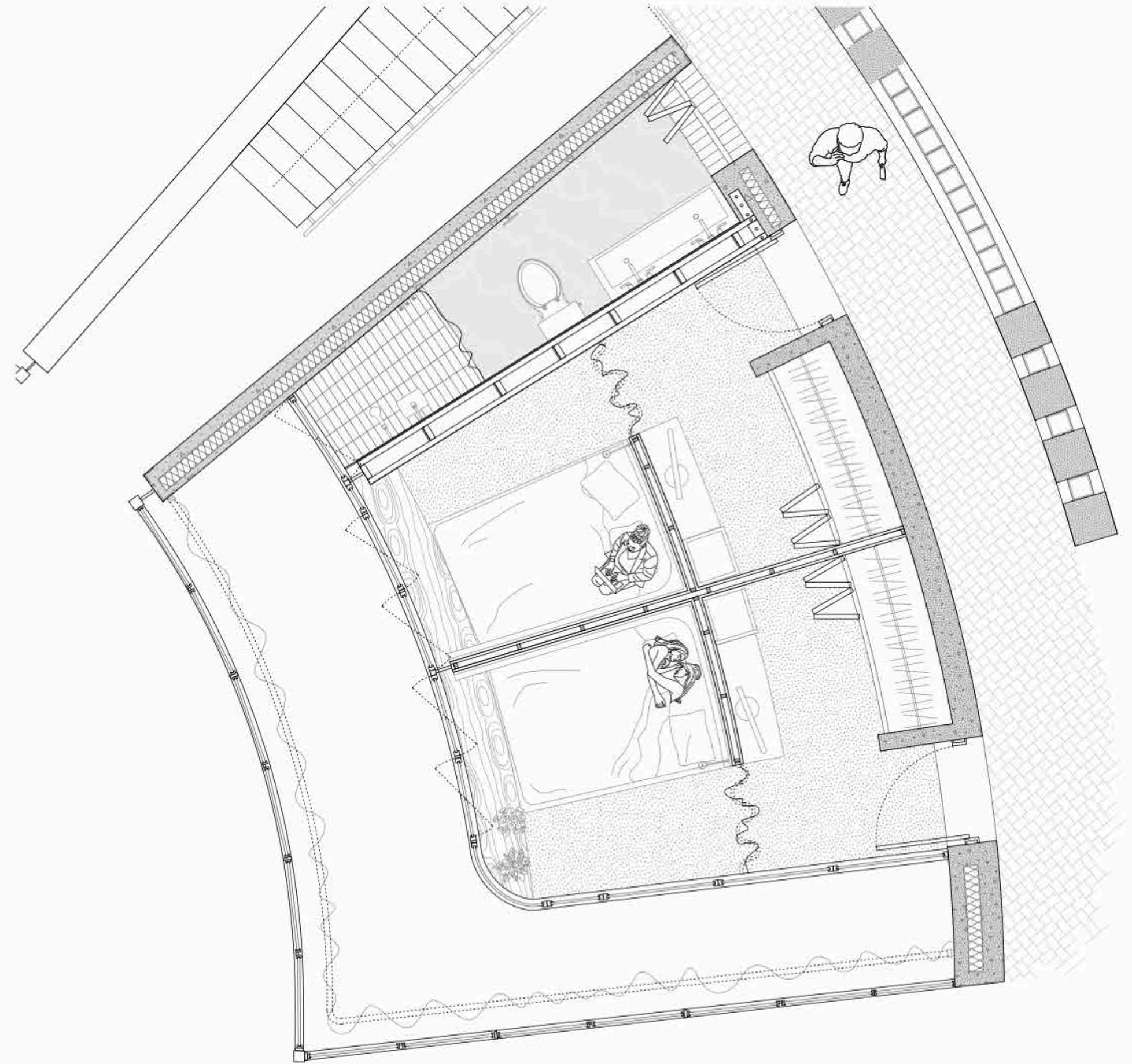
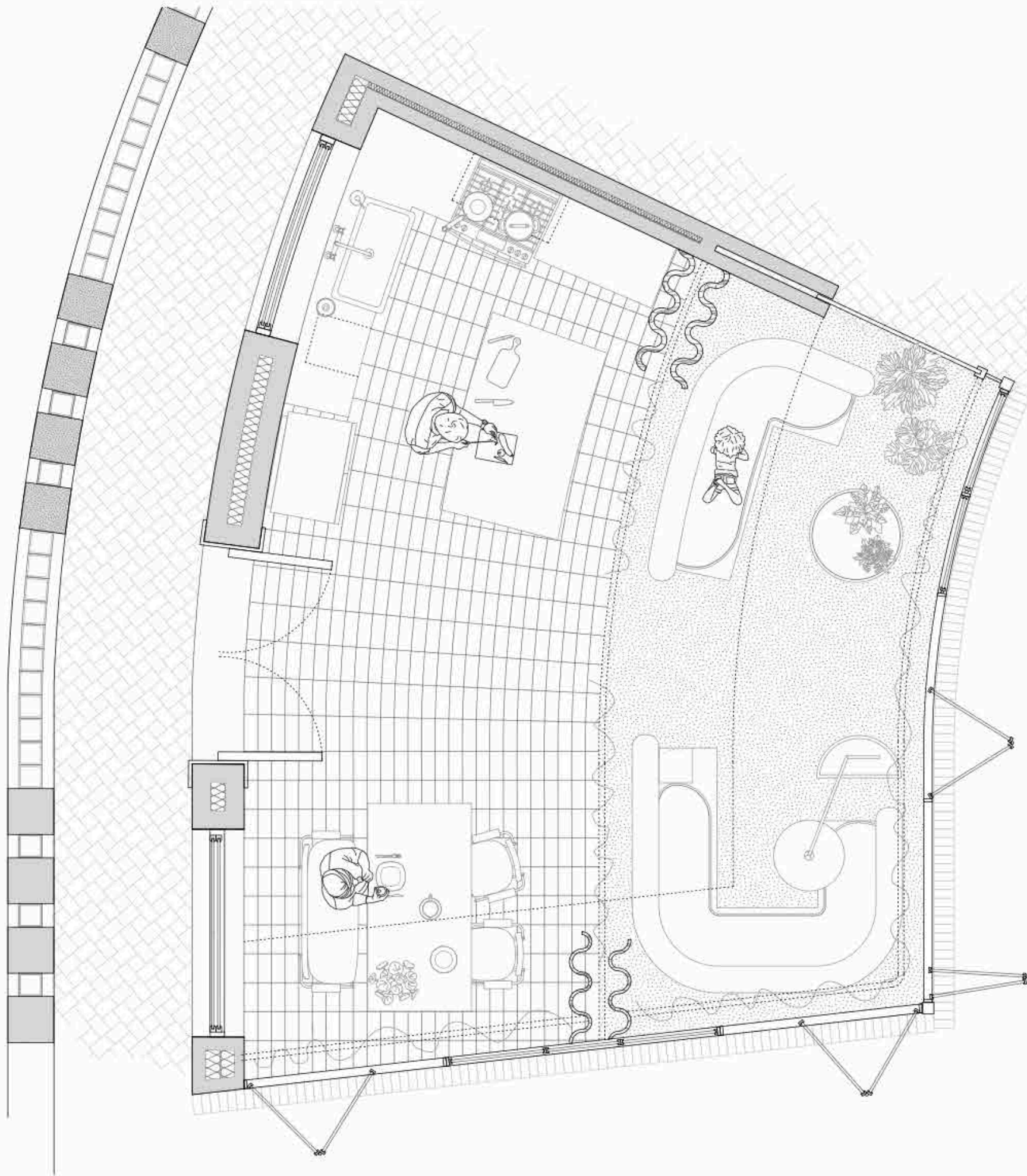




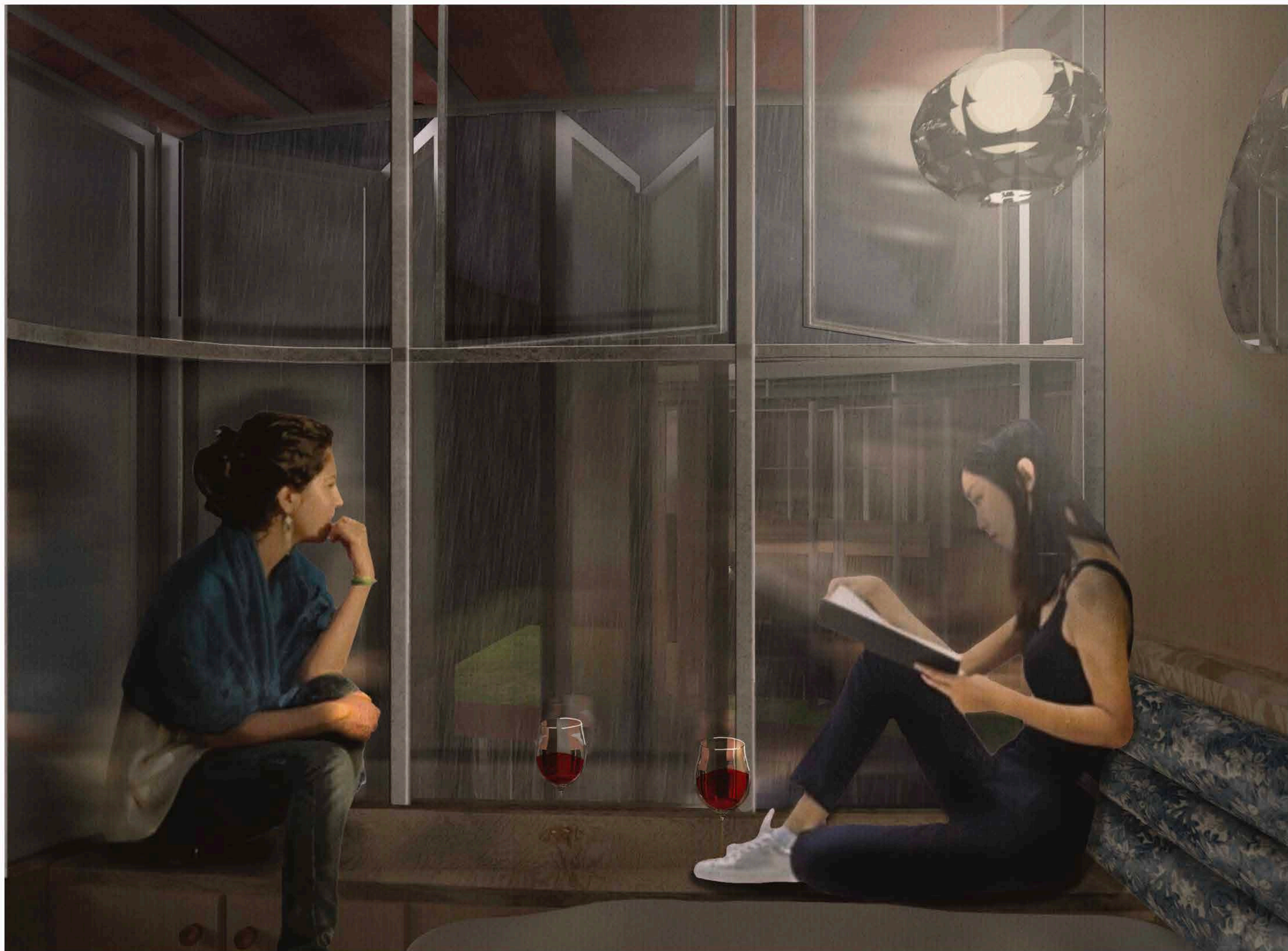
Indian Grass
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Milkweed
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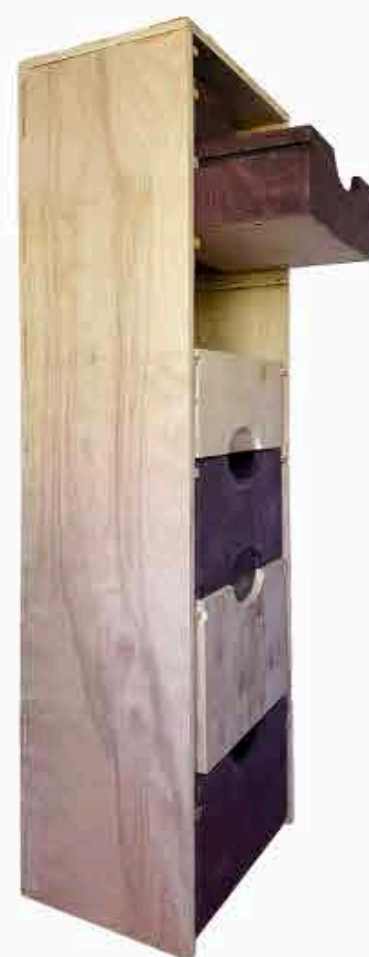






Shelfing Unit

This furniture piece was designed to live inside the previous project, The Stoop, and intended to be used for smaller apartments.



An architectural rendering of the Freshkills Research Garden. The scene depicts a large body of water in the foreground, with two people kayaking. In the middle ground, a modern research facility with a glass and wood facade is situated on a grassy hill. The background shows a vast, open landscape under a dramatic, cloudy sky. Several birds are flying in the upper left, and a school of fish is visible in the water near the bottom left.

Freshkills Research Garden

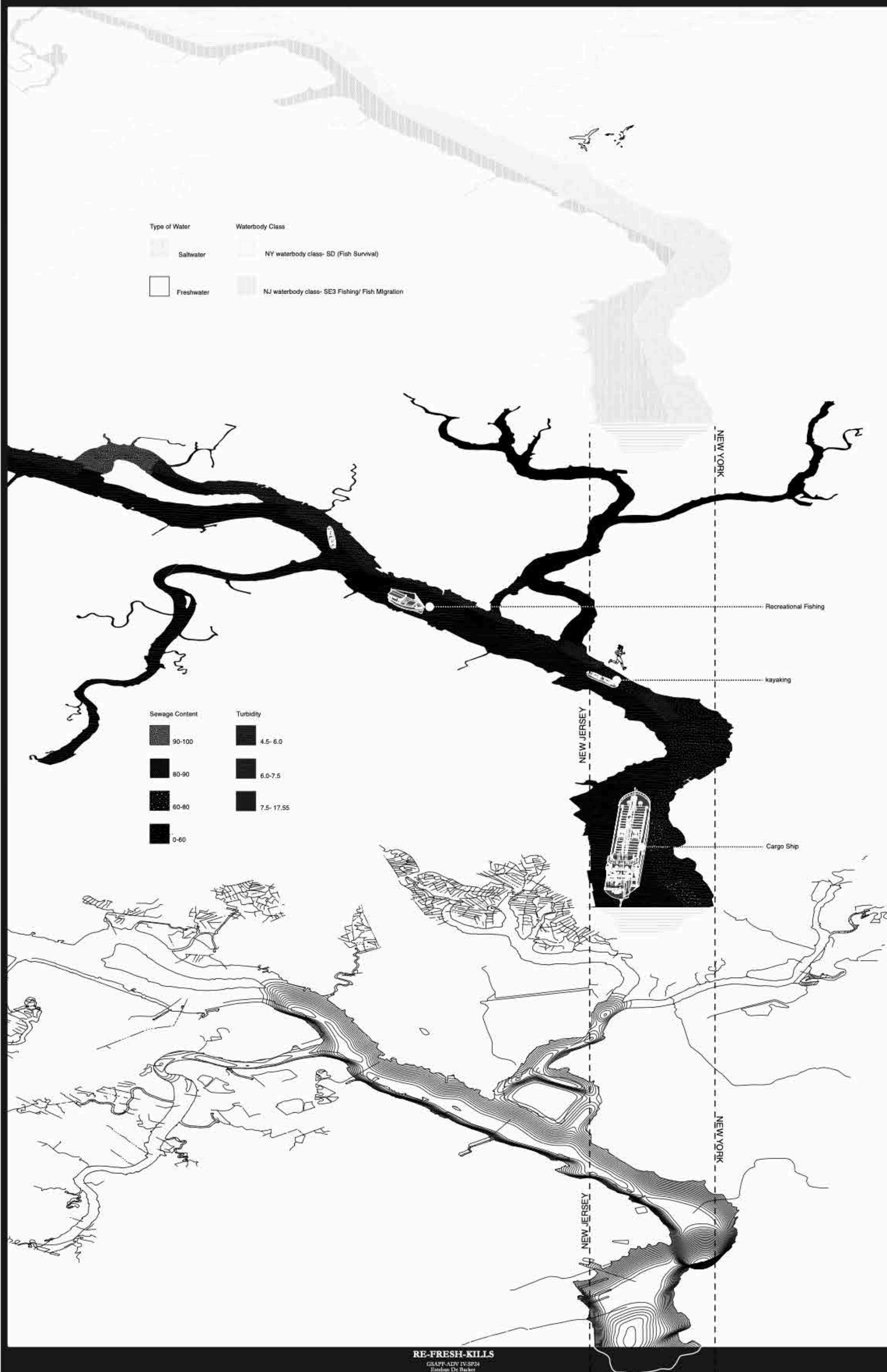
This proposal envisions a network of site-specific research facilities across Staten Island, dedicated to the study and restoration of its diverse ecological zones—estuaries, marshlands, tidal flats, and woodlands. Drawing inspiration from the ecological transformation of Freshkills Park, the intervention seeks to explore how urban green spaces can be revitalized to endure and mitigate the environmental pressures generated by dense metropolitan contexts.

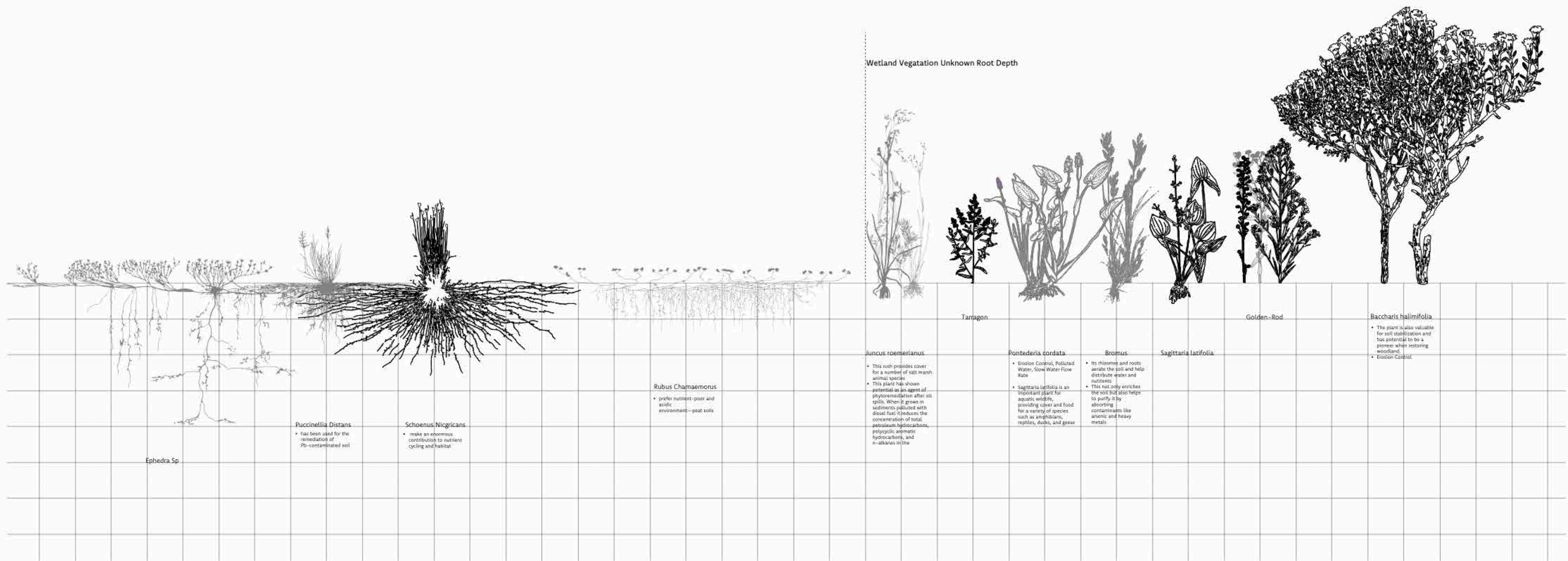
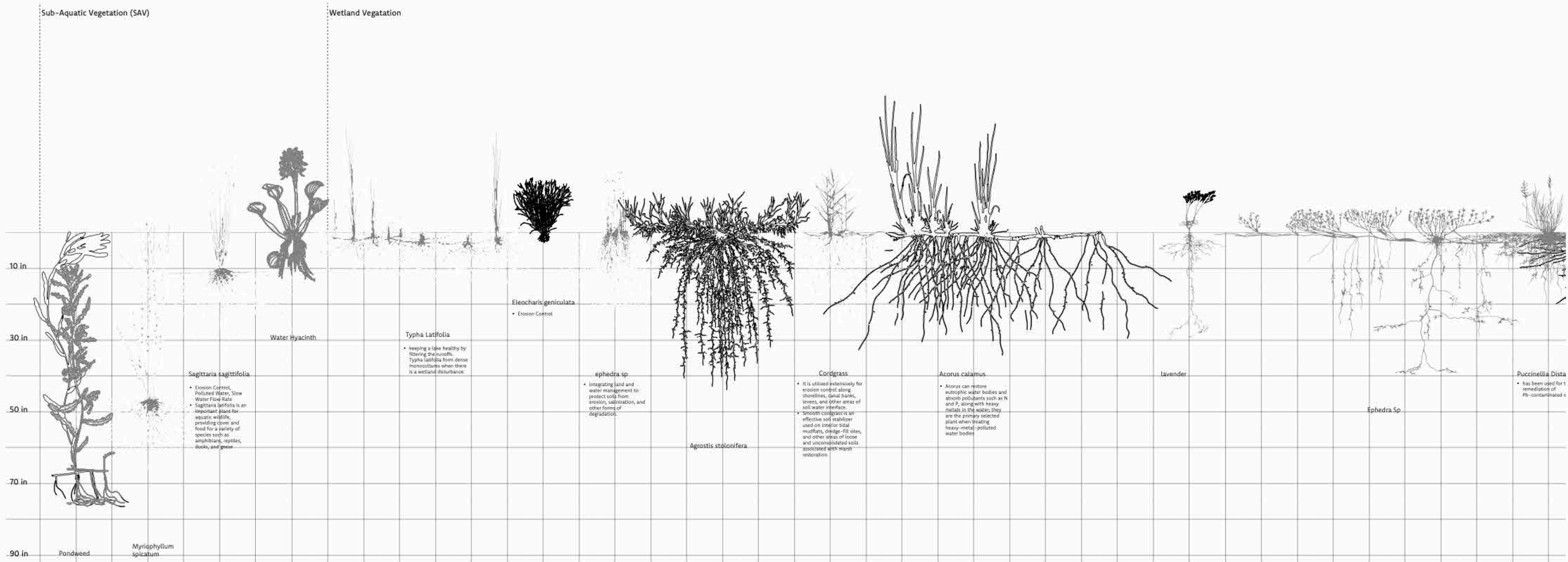
The project is anchored by a central nursery, designed to serve as both a funding mechanism and a regional resource hub. This nursery will cultivate native plant species and distribute ecological materials essential for habitat restoration efforts across the state.

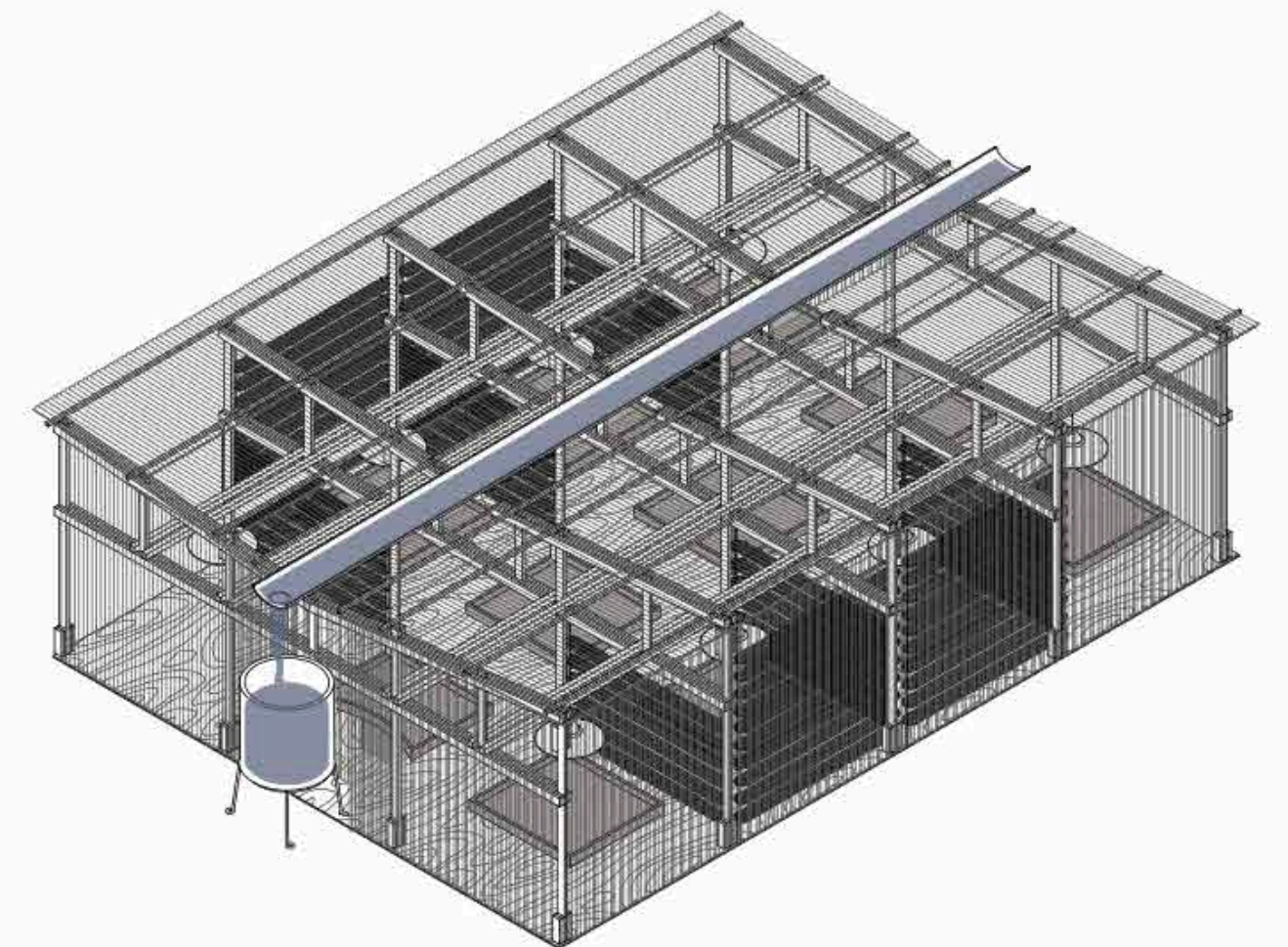
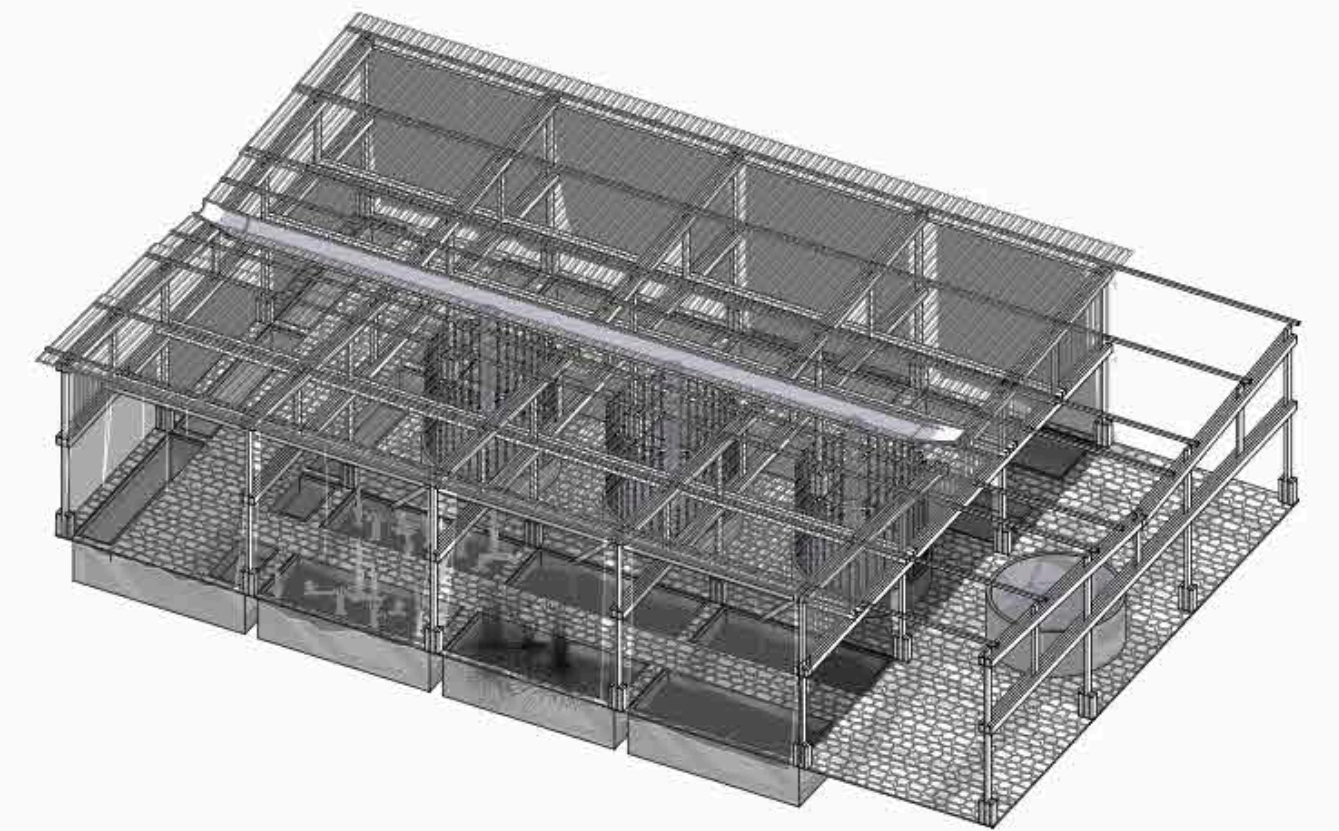
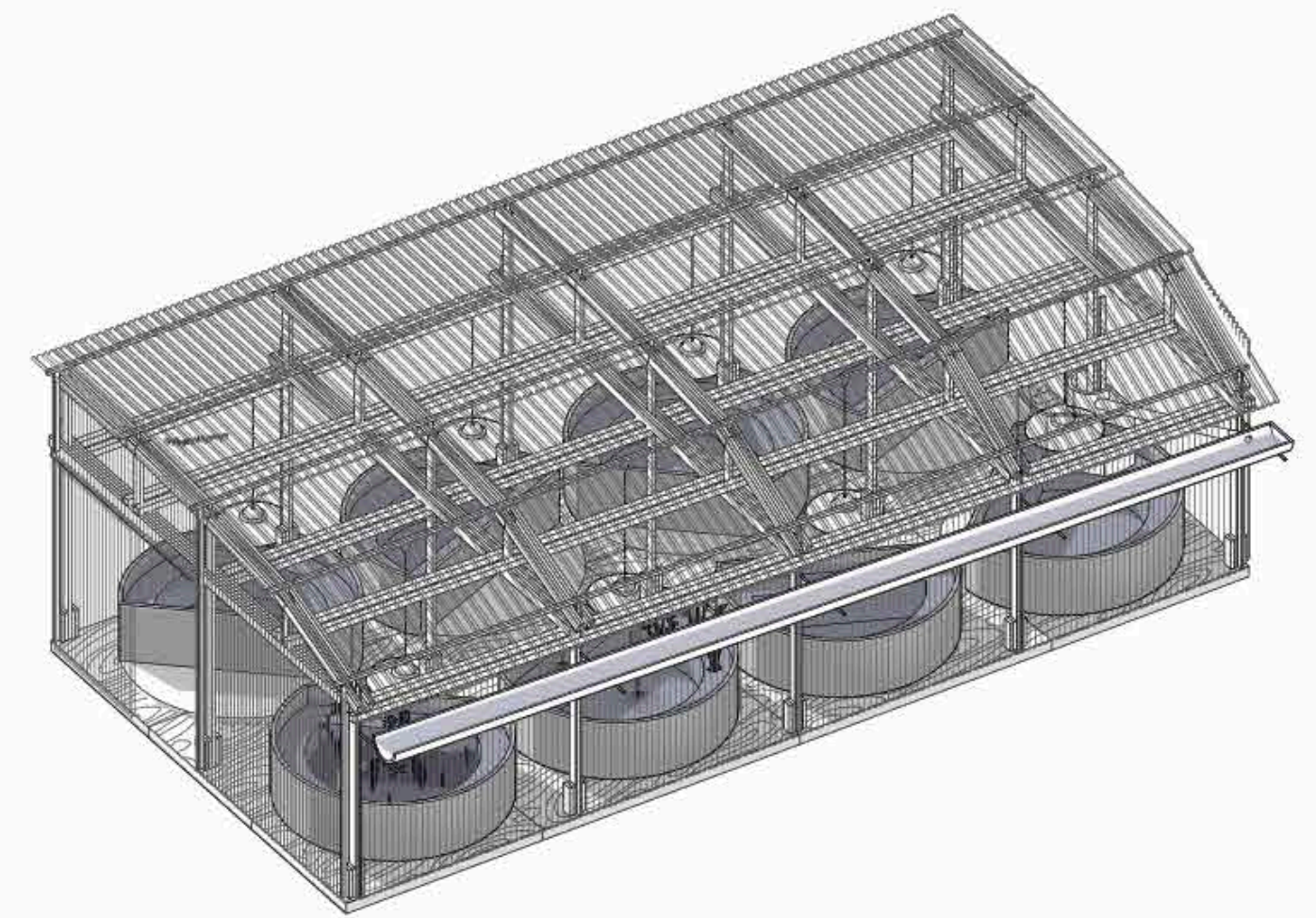
The site will host four specialized research centers—each corresponding to a unique habitat type: the Estuary Lab, Marshland Lab, Tidal Land Lab, and Woodland Lab. These facilities will be tailored to the scientific and operational needs of researchers and volunteers, providing space for ecological monitoring, data collection, and restoration initiatives. In addition, strategically designed controlled environments will allow for the undisturbed regeneration of specific habitat conditions, supporting long-term ecological resilience with minimal human intervention.

Core 4
2024

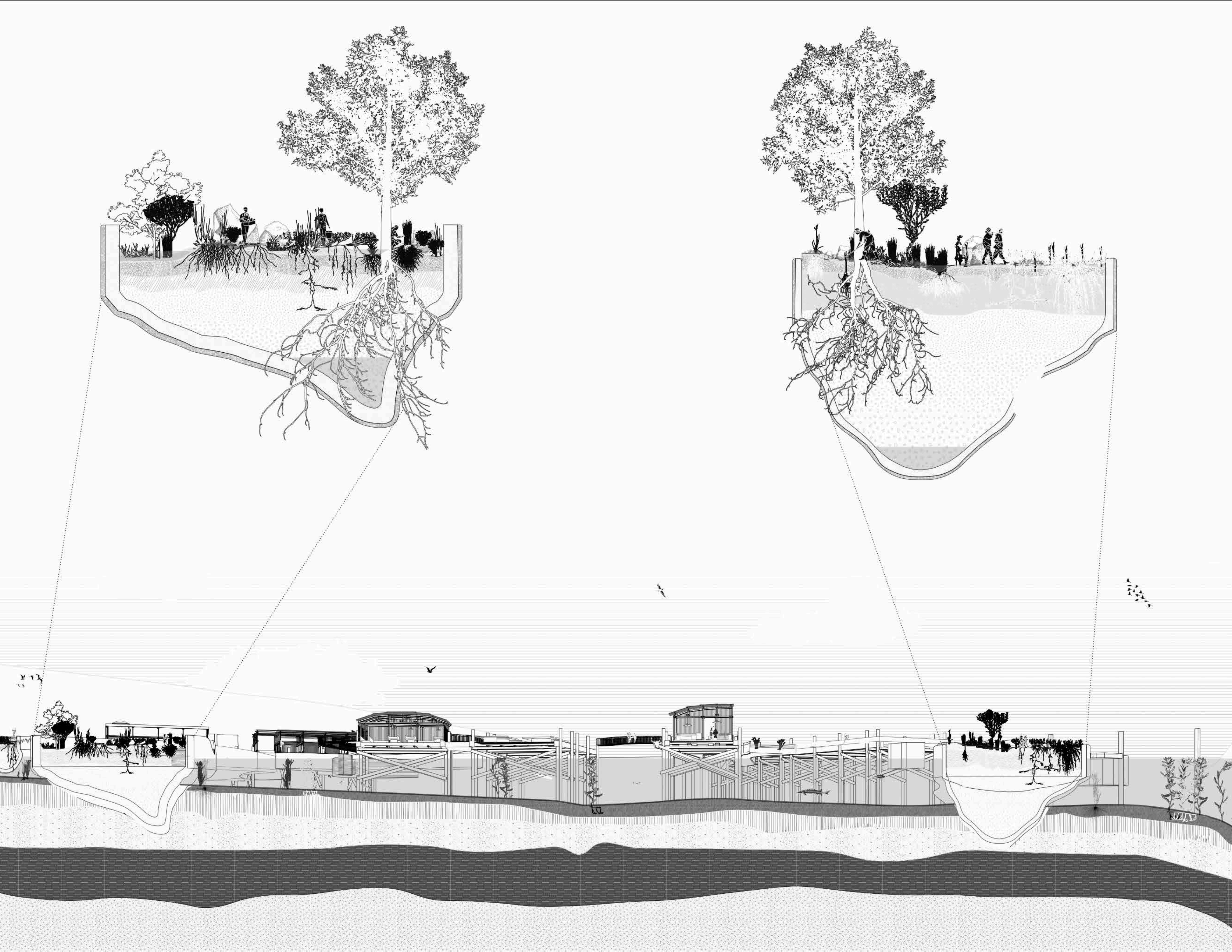
Studio Critic: Esteban de Backer

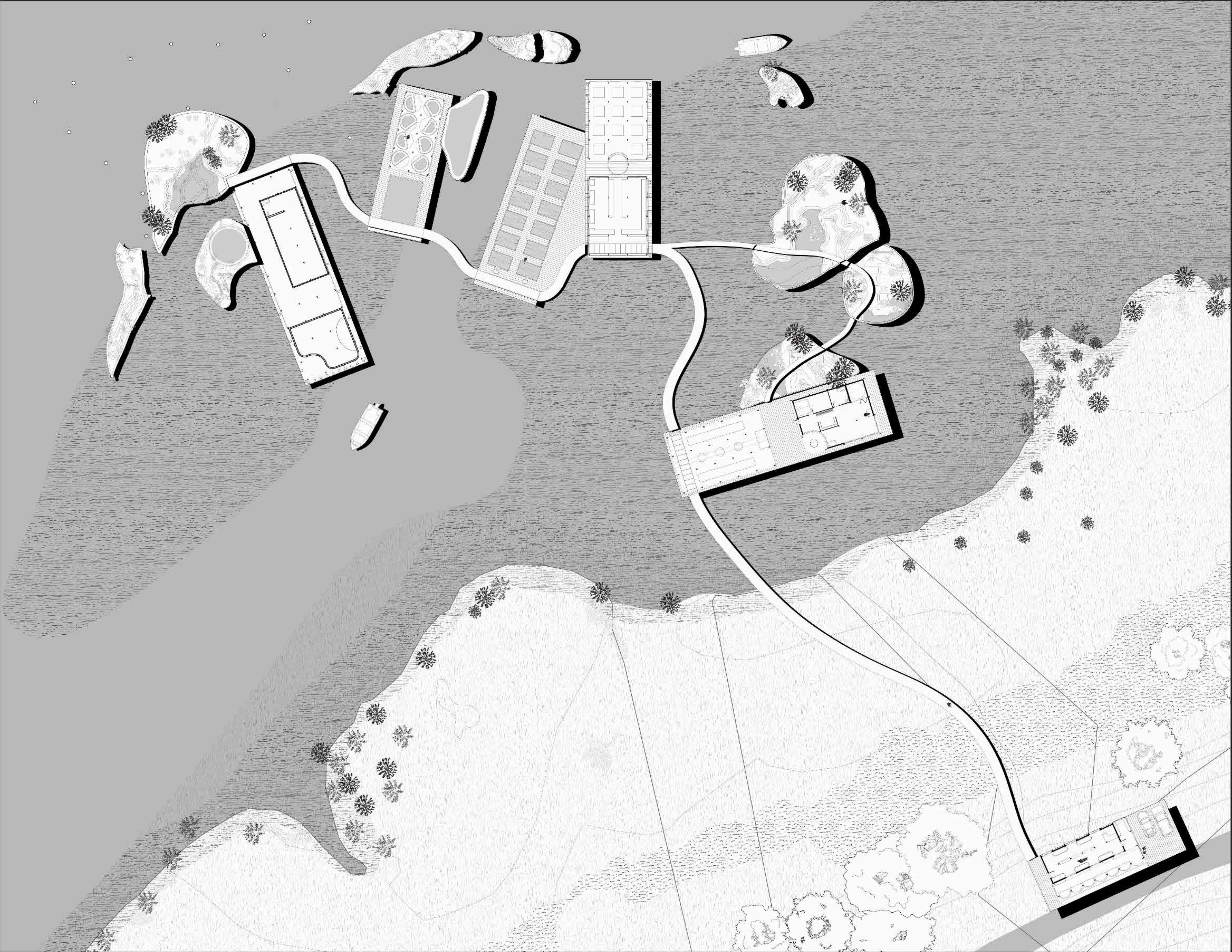














La Fabrica Ricardo
Bofill Inspired Furniture
Design



Breathing Bricks

An international prize fund for sustainable design leadership in carbon removal and neutralisation highlights a growing global commitment to climate action. Yet, over 90% of the funding is directed toward the Global North, despite the Global South bearing the brunt of climate impacts.

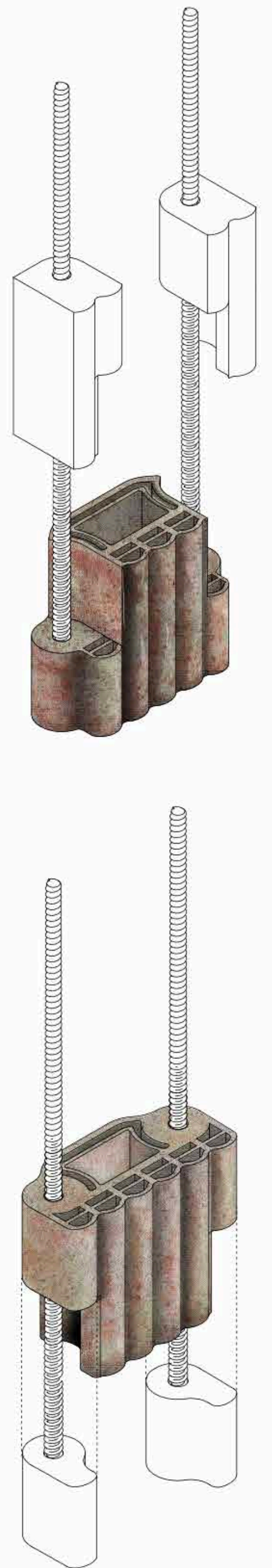
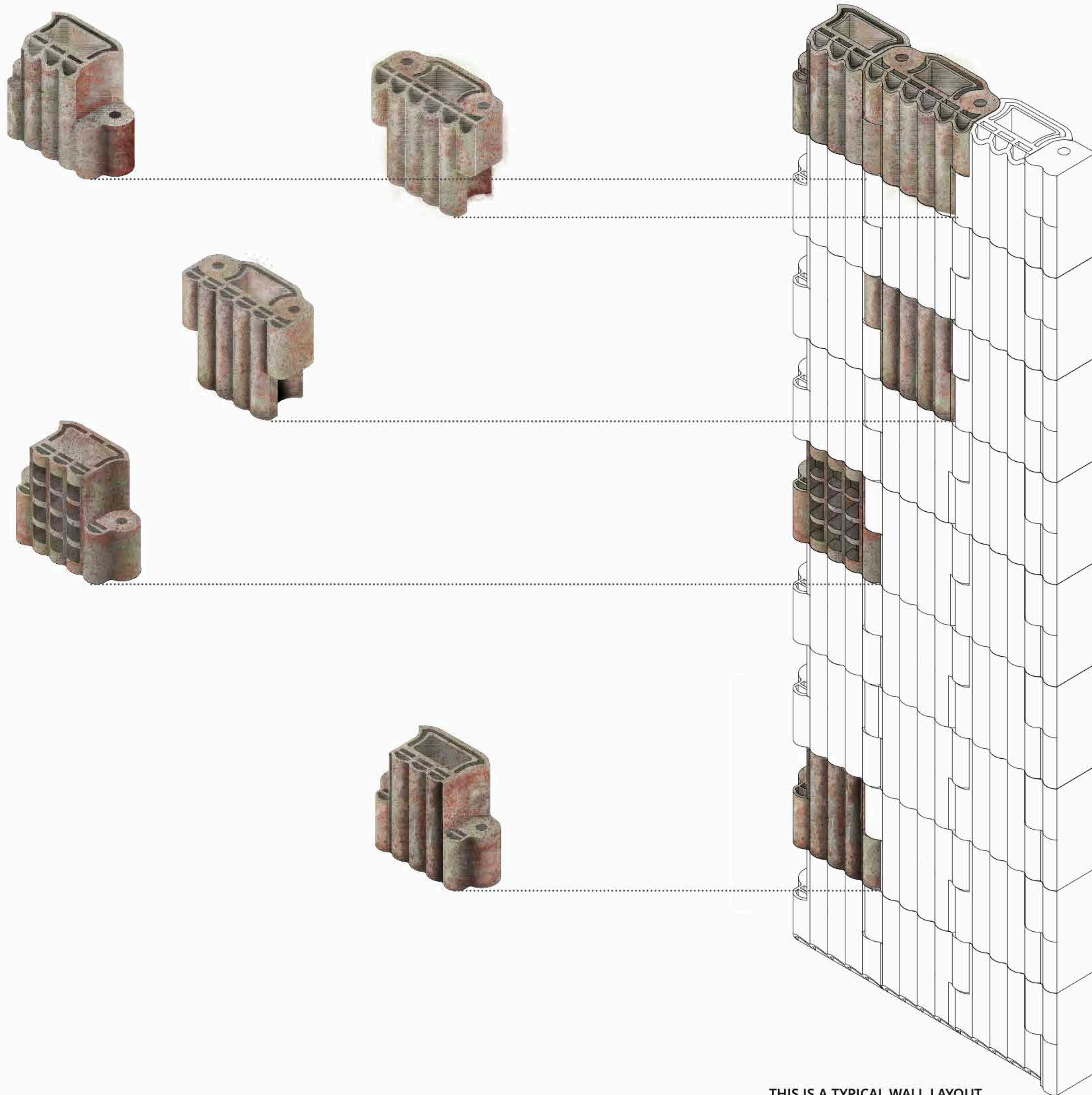
This imbalance reflects enduring biases that frame the Global South as underdeveloped and unfit for advanced environmental interventions. Lower emissions in these regions are often misinterpreted as a reason to exclude them from carbon capture projects, overlooking their potential to benefit from such investment.

Redirecting resources toward the Global South not only advances global carbon goals but also offers a path to equitable infrastructure development. Sustainable design, when equitably applied, becomes both a climate solution and a vehicle for environmental justice.

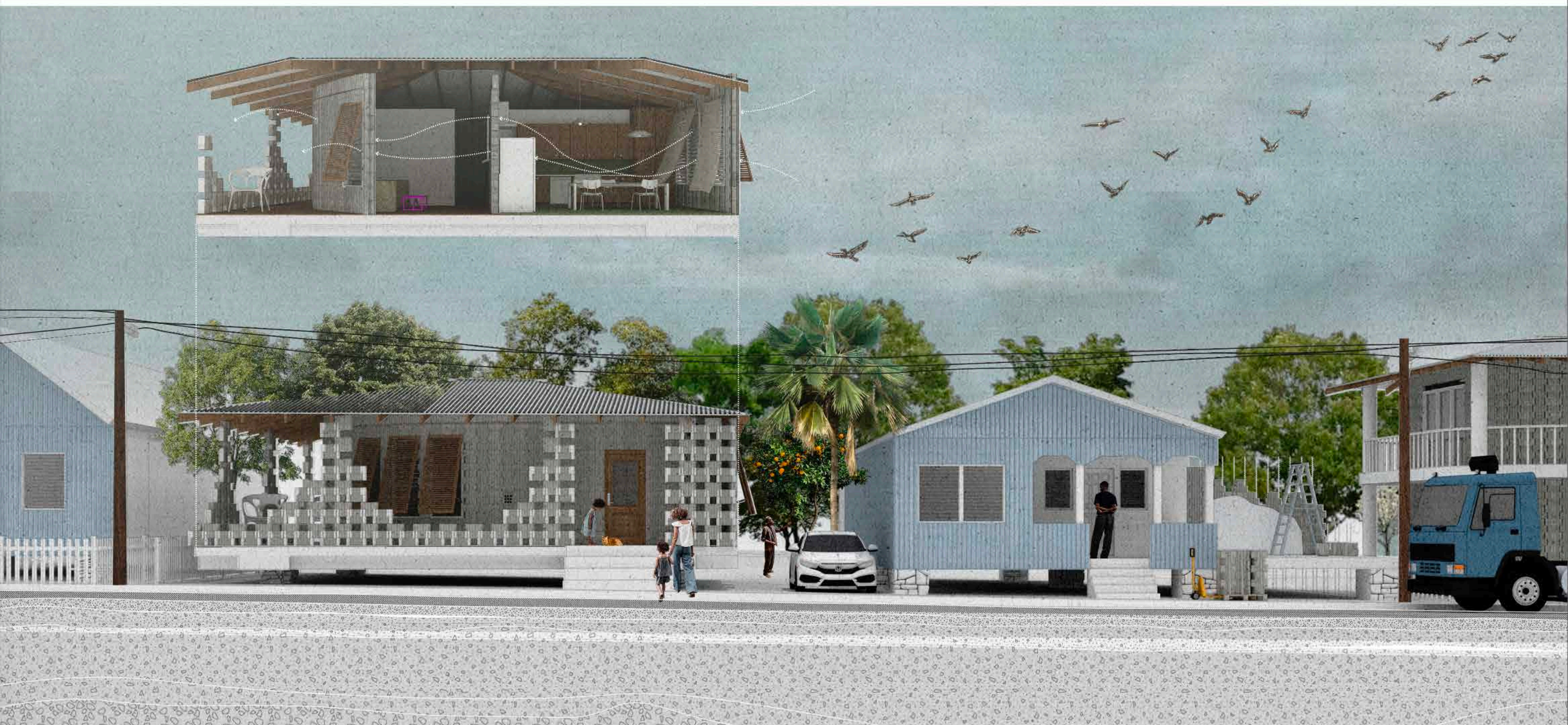
Core 5
2025

Studio Critic: David Benjamin



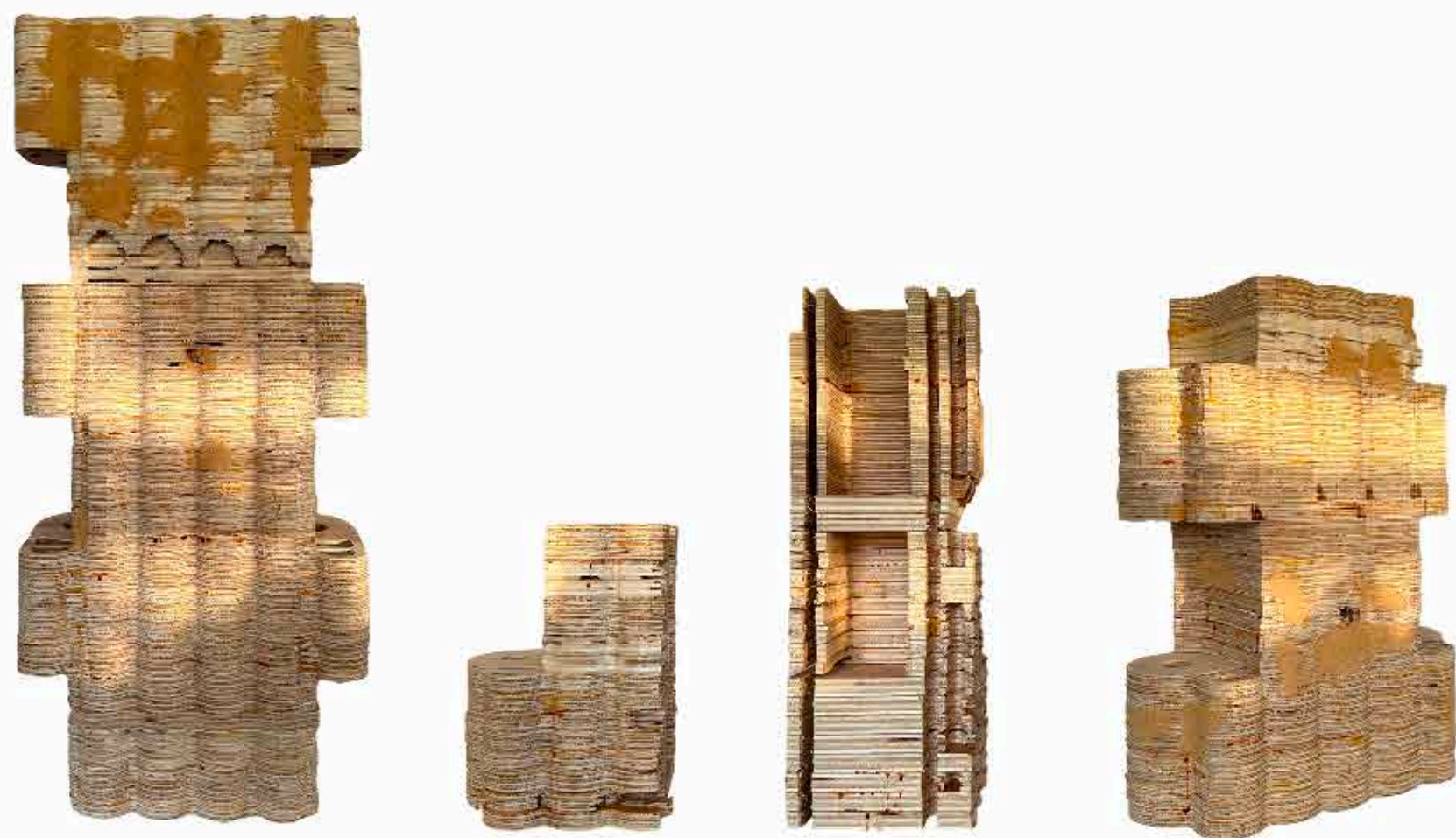


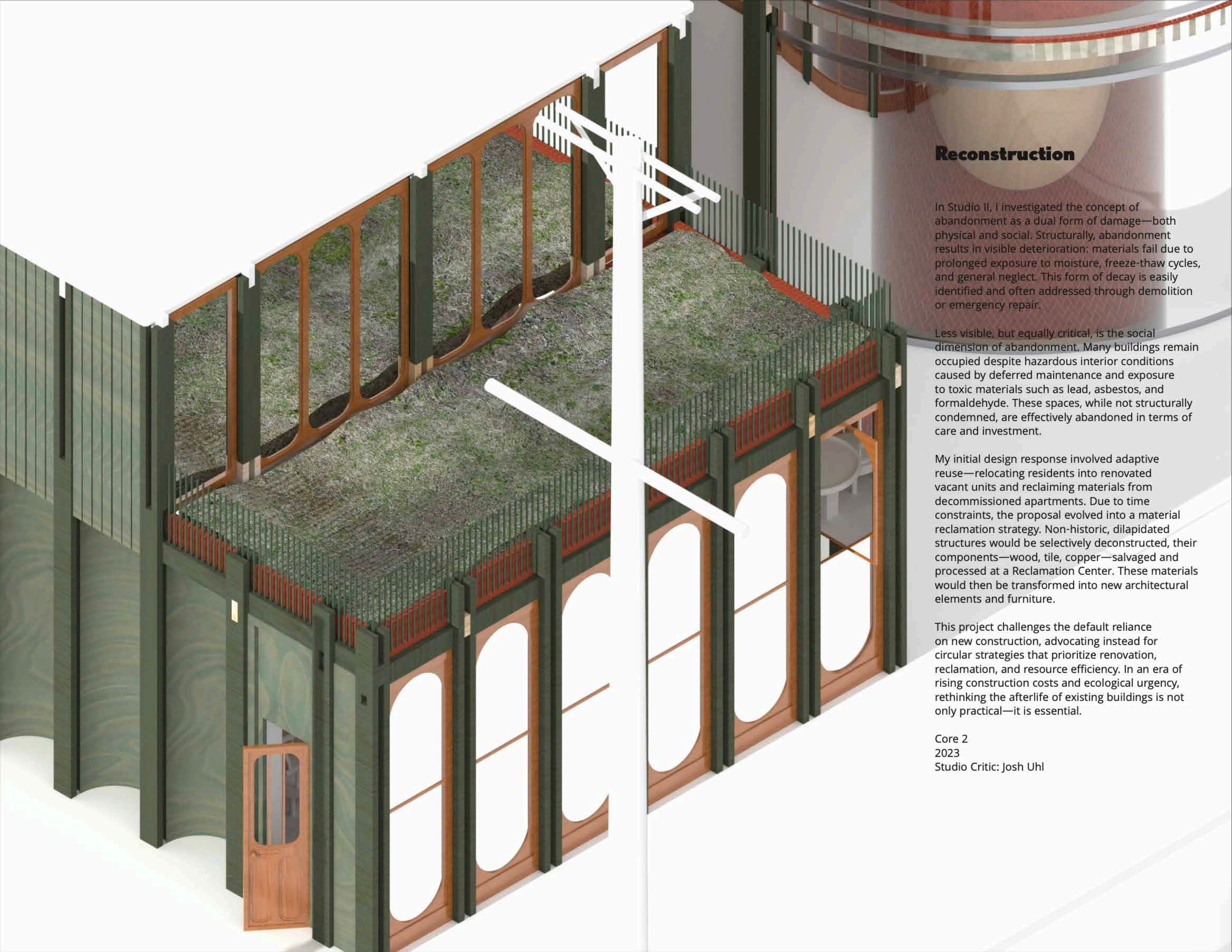
THIS IS A TYPICAL WALL LAYOUT





Breathing Bricks
Constructed





Reconstruction

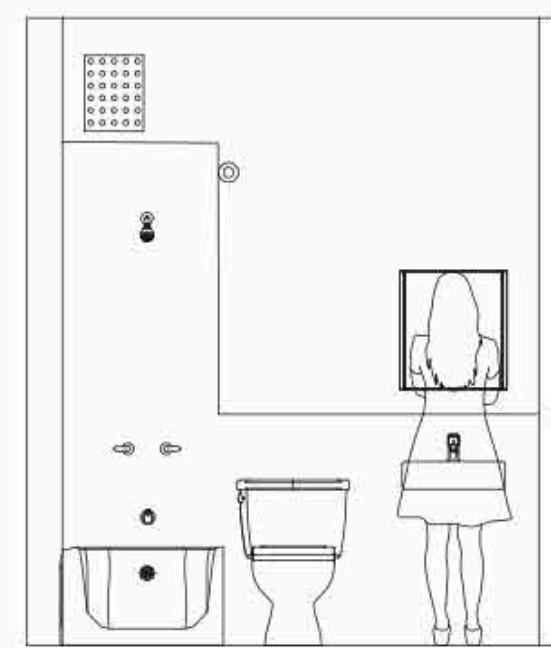
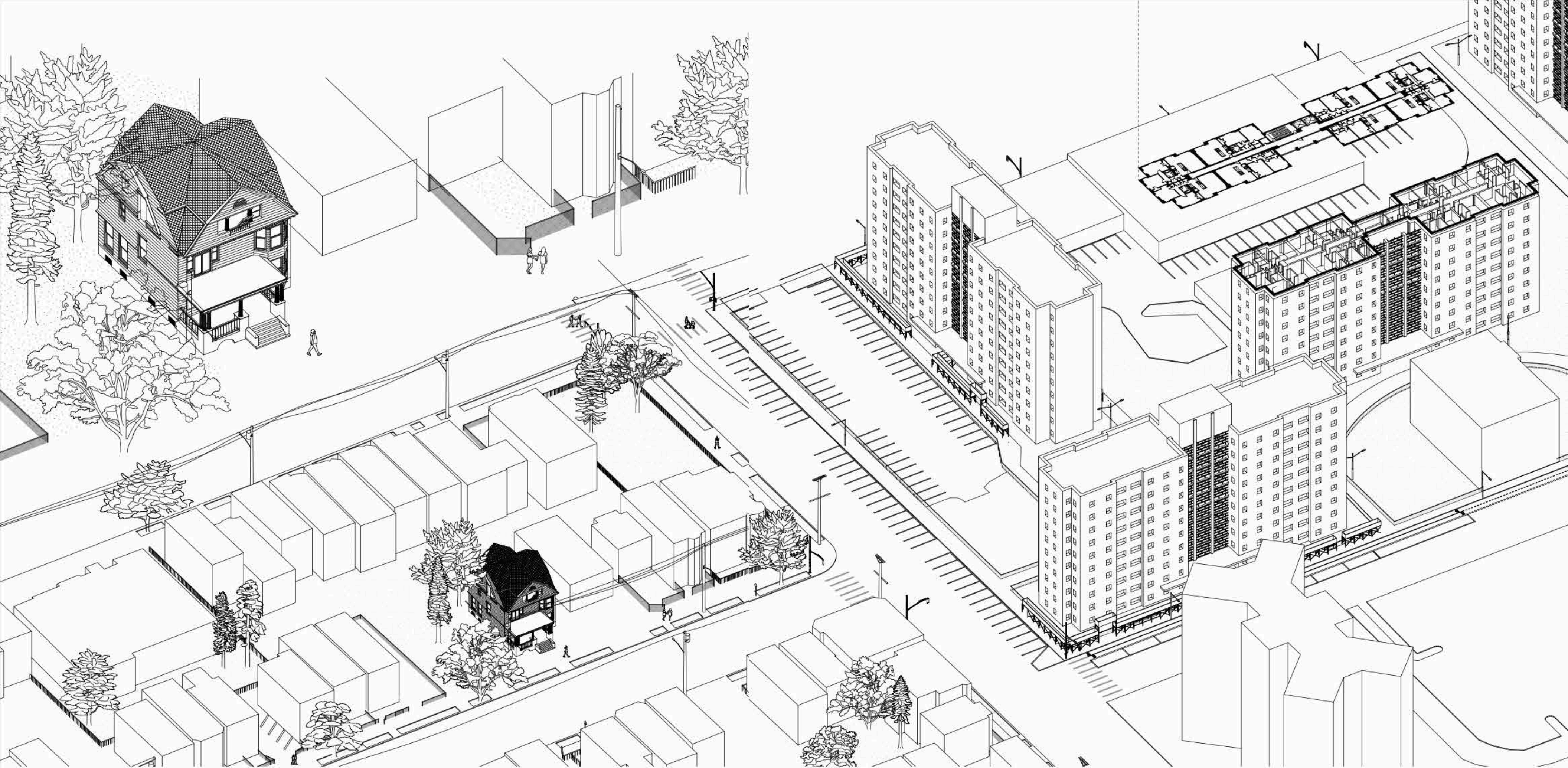
In Studio II, I investigated the concept of abandonment as a dual form of damage—both physical and social. Structurally, abandonment results in visible deterioration: materials fail due to prolonged exposure to moisture, freeze-thaw cycles, and general neglect. This form of decay is easily identified and often addressed through demolition or emergency repair.

Less visible, but equally critical, is the social dimension of abandonment. Many buildings remain occupied despite hazardous interior conditions caused by deferred maintenance and exposure to toxic materials such as lead, asbestos, and formaldehyde. These spaces, while not structurally condemned, are effectively abandoned in terms of care and investment.

My initial design response involved adaptive reuse—relocating residents into renovated vacant units and reclaiming materials from decommissioned apartments. Due to time constraints, the proposal evolved into a material reclamation strategy. Non-historic, dilapidated structures would be selectively deconstructed, their components—wood, tile, copper—salvaged and processed at a Reclamation Center. These materials would then be transformed into new architectural elements and furniture.

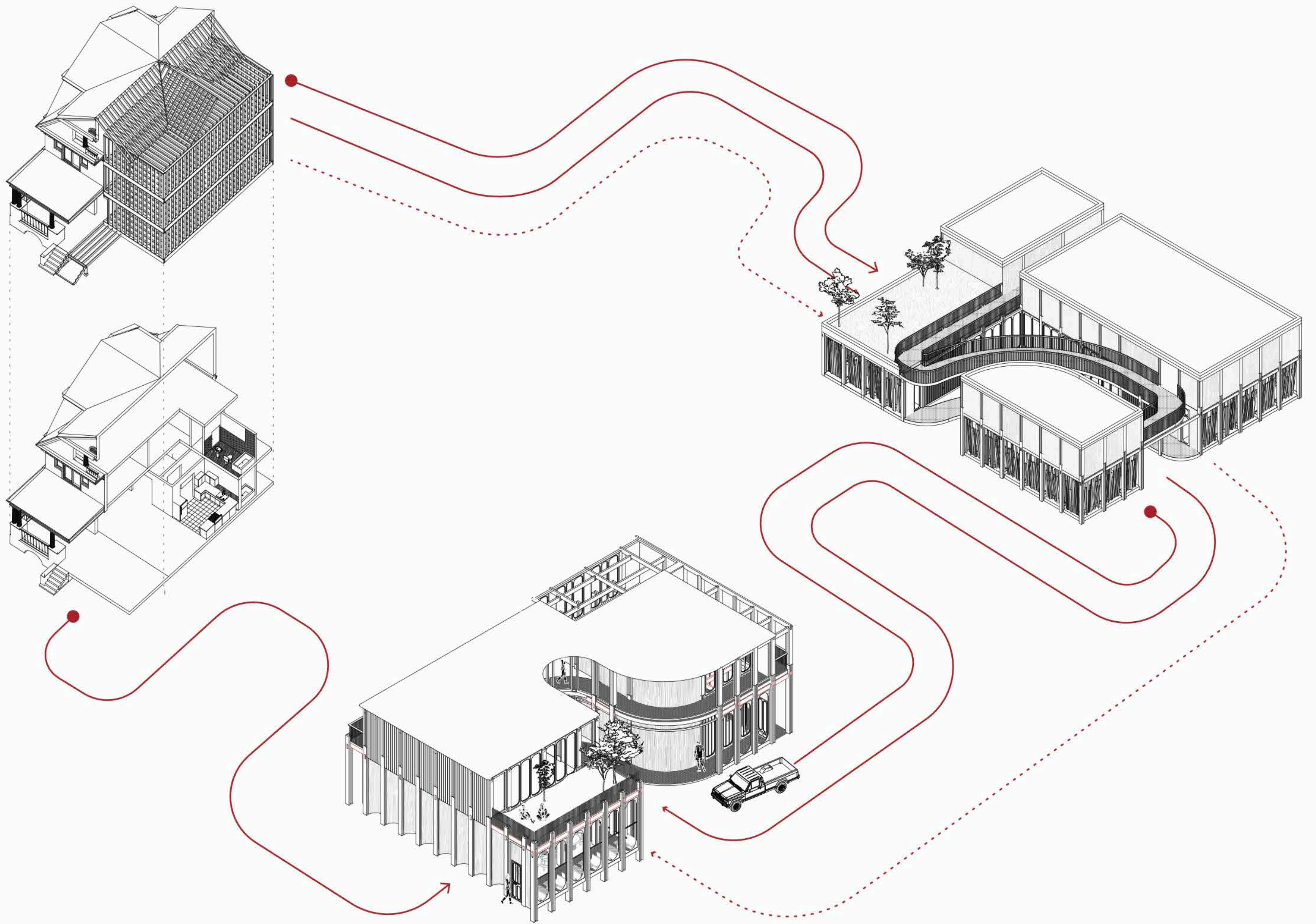
This project challenges the default reliance on new construction, advocating instead for circular strategies that prioritize renovation, reclamation, and resource efficiency. In an era of rising construction costs and ecological urgency, rethinking the afterlife of existing buildings is not only practical—it is essential.

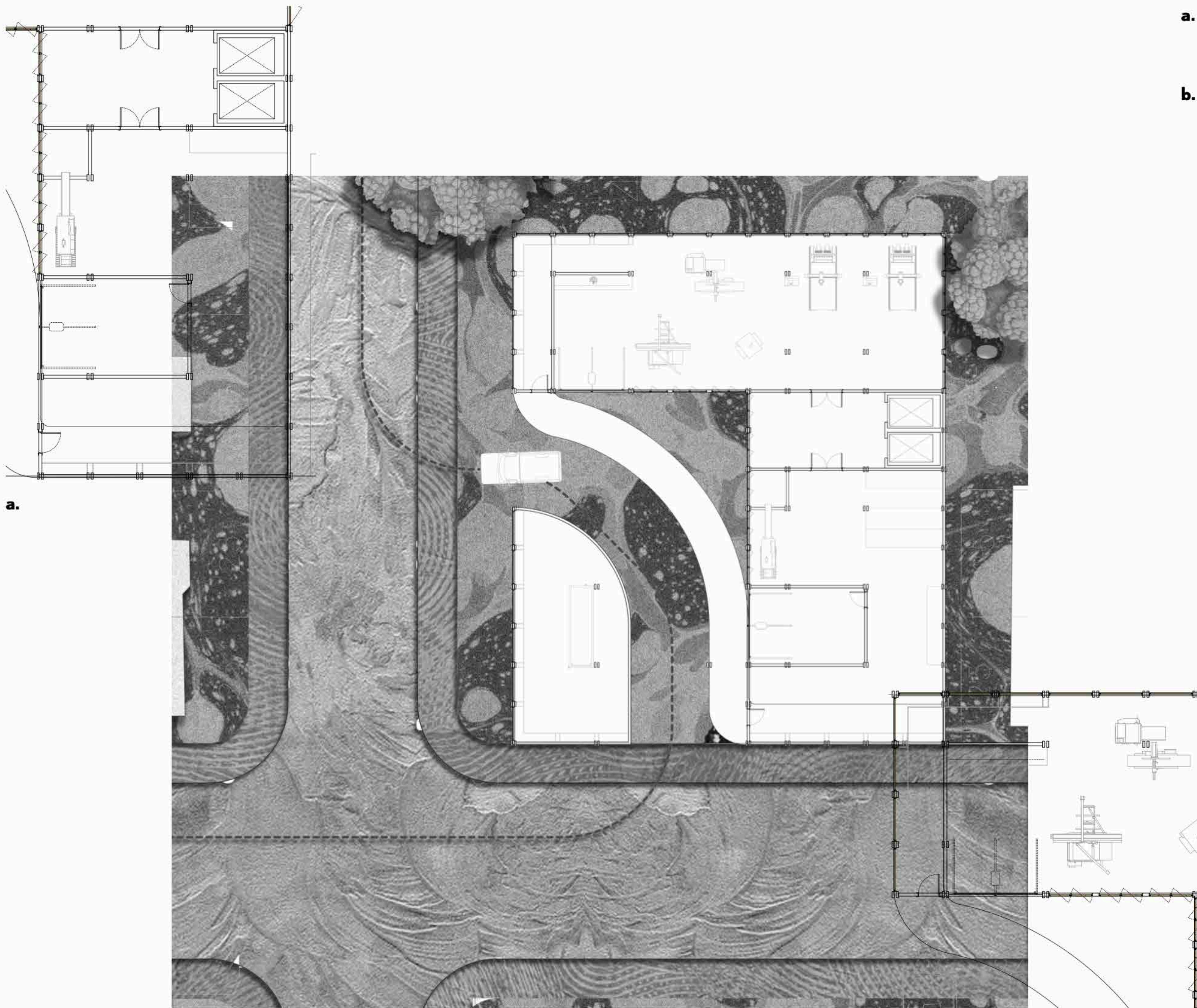
Core 2
2023
Studio Critic: Josh Uhl



- Abandoned Structures
- Destination Recycling
- Destination Woodshop
- R-2
- C-2
- R-1



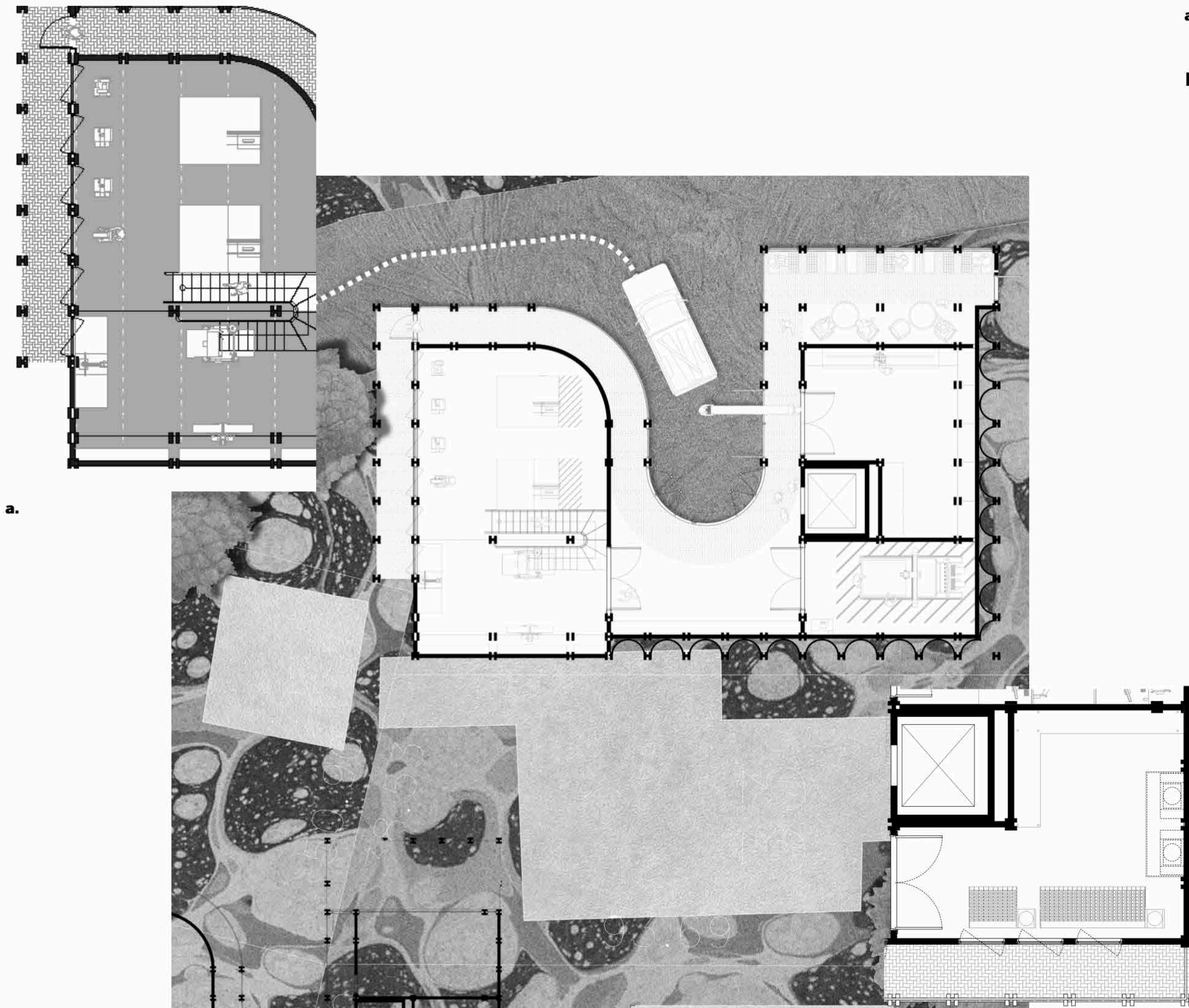


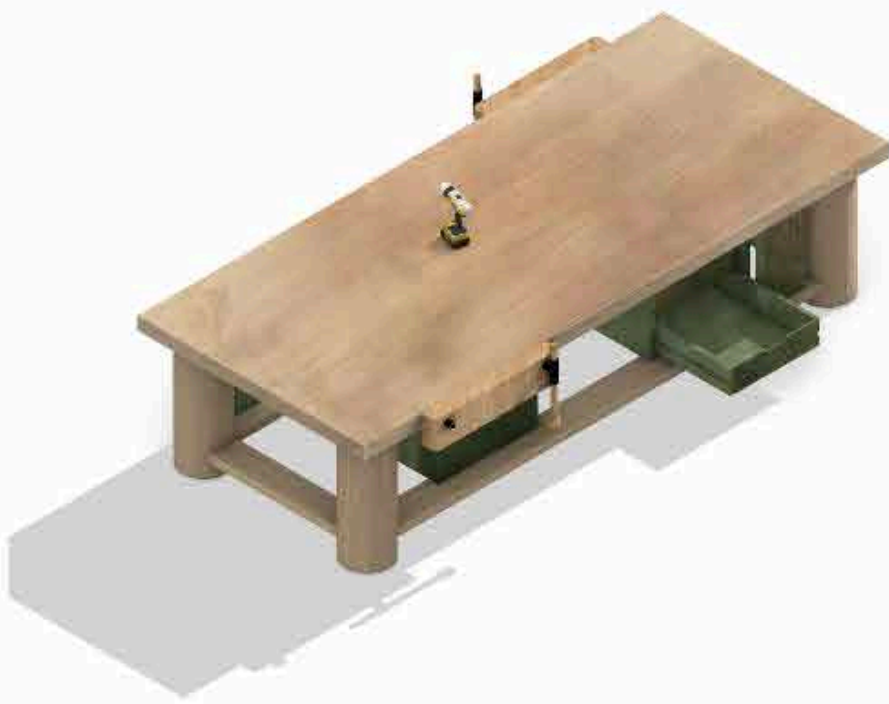


a. Brick and Tile Sorting and Recycling

b. Loading Dock, Wood Restoration Shop

- a.** Main Shop
- b.** Finishing Room





The image is a full-page architectural rendering of a proposed building interior. The top half shows a large, open hall with a high ceiling featuring a complex red steel truss system. Three large, red, umbrella-like light fixtures hang from the ceiling. The walls are made of light-colored concrete. The bottom half shows a central courtyard area with a wooden deck, a small tree, and a ramp. On either side of the courtyard are rows of modular, wooden, bunk-like units. Two people are walking on the deck. The overall design is modern and functional, with a focus on community and care.

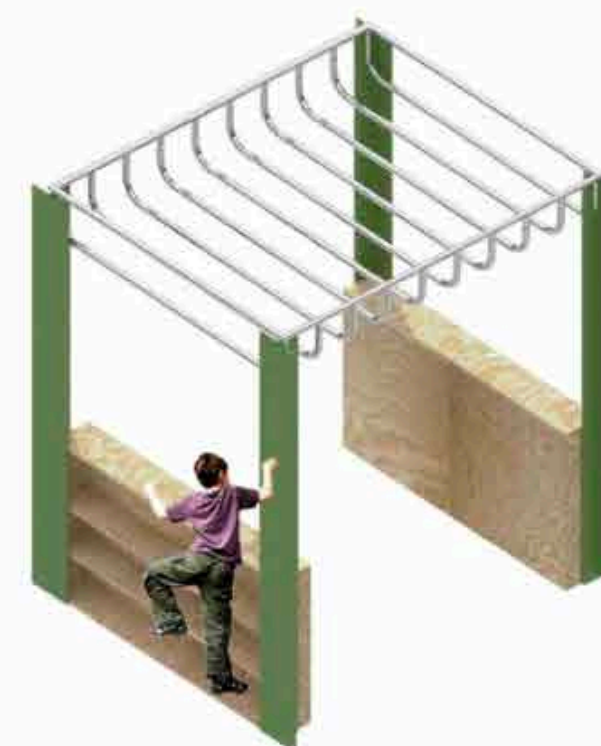
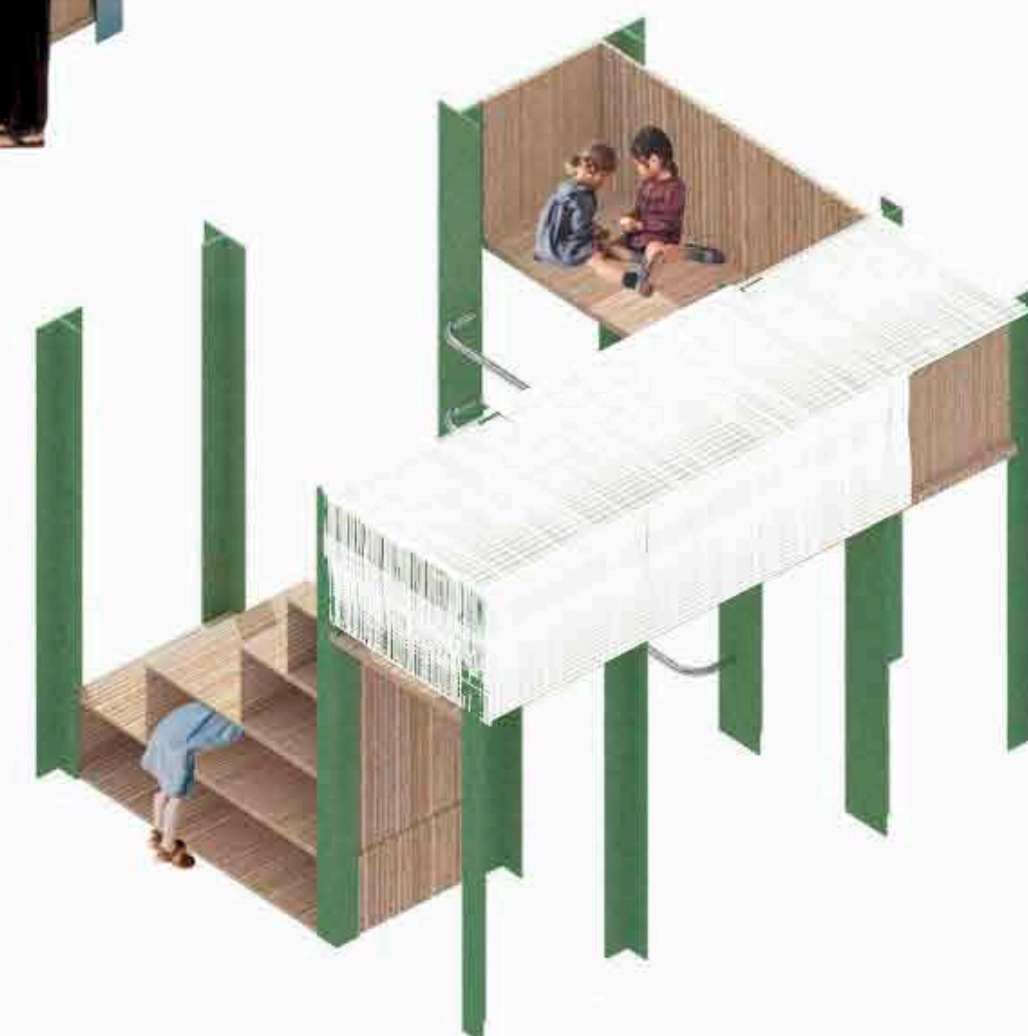
El Decorado

This project proposes a system for furnishing comfort and care, designed by and for women—specifically young orphan mothers, their children, and individual orphans cared for by the Casa de Mercedes Fundación in San Rafael, Mexico City. Situated near the former Opera Cinema, this work seeks to reclaim domestic dignity through design, centering the overlooked sleep, rest, and care rituals. The modular system is designed around the most practical and highest priority element that the Fundación requires—bunk-type spaces for sleep and rest—but is also designed as a module to grow and transform, first to provide other useful components for community and commercial uses, and then in surprising and luxuriant ways that encourage playfulness, mindfulness, and an expanded sense of the possible. Through fieldwork, interviews, and architectural experimentation, the project will prototype this adaptable system in support of intergenerational bonding, privacy, and the radical ability to rest and dream.

Core 6
2025

Studio Critic: Gabriella Carrillo and Thomas De Monchaux

Studio Partner: Valery Kate Perez



An aerial photograph of a city grid, likely New York City, with a red highlighted path or route running diagonally across the image. The path is composed of several segments, some of which are elevated or have green spaces integrated into them. The surrounding city blocks are shown in a blueish-grey tone, and the overall image has a slightly grainy, high-contrast aesthetic.

Alternative Route

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the spatial shortcomings of New York City's urban fabric. As mobility was restricted by both government mandates and personal caution, it became clear that much of the city's housing lacked access to private outdoor space, while public amenities such as parks and wide sidewalks were insufficient to serve residents during a public health crisis. This raised urgent questions about how New Yorkers might re-engage with a transformed city, both during and in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Hell's Kitchen, like much of the city, is undergoing rapid change. The neighborhood faces rising rents, increasing insecurity, and a shortage of public resources—all of which have strained the morale and stability of its community. In response, this project, Alternate Route, proposes a network of semi-private, multi-programmed amenity spaces embedded within the existing architectural fabric. These interventions aim to support residents' social and mental well-being while resisting the erasure of local identity through gentrification.

To ensure the design responds to local needs, the project draws on a citywide community survey that identified key priorities for Hell's Kitchen: expanded green space, youth programming, inclusive recreation, accessible health services, and safety. Programmatic decisions were informed by a thorough mapping of existing neighborhood infrastructure to identify strategic intervention sites.

Unlike larger urban projects such as the High Line, Alternate Route is intentionally modest in scale. Each elevated bridge or node serves a singular program, with minimal visual impact on the streetscape. Vegetation is partially screened behind tall facades, and access is discreet—integrated through existing residential buildings—to provide a sense of privacy and ownership for local users. The result is a series of quiet yet vital insertions that offer restorative, community-oriented space in the heart of a changing city.

Core 1
2022
Studio Critic: Carlyle Fraser

